FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 21, 2025**

Statement from Union CSD Board President

LA PORTE CITY, IOWA — Union Community School Board President Ben Schemmel has released the following statement today:

> “Recently, some discussions and comments have reflected an unnecessary tone that does not align with our community standards of respect and collaboration. I want to take a moment to share some thoughts from the school board’s perspective and refocus on what truly matters—our students, our schools, and our communities.
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> This bond is not a wish list, and it has the full support of the school board. As a board, it is our responsibility to plan for the long-term health of our schools and invest in the future of our district. This plan is designed to keep our facilities safe, efficient, and prepared for the next generation of learners. The goal isn’t to redo what’s already been done, but to protect, improve, and strengthen the facilities that families before us worked hard to build.
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> We recognize this can be challenging for some, and we do not take that lightly. Timing is never perfect for any project. The needs identified in this bond reflect many conversations, careful and thorough assessments, and public input—including feedback gathered through the community survey. That insight has guided our priorities to ensure the plan addresses real needs while balancing responsibility with progress.
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> We understand there will be differing opinions—that’s part of the process and part of what makes our community strong. At the end of the day, we all share the same goal: doing what’s best for the next generation.
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> Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to learn more, ask questions, and stay engaged. Your voices matter, and your participation is what helps us move forward—together. Now, respectfully, go vote!”

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